

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes
Location: State Investment Board - Olympia, WA
February 9, 2006

Present

Katie Hansen, Chair
Carl Weimer, Vice Chair
Duane Henderson
George Hills
Richard Kuprewicz
Pete Kmet
Grant Jensen
Shirley Olson
Bill Rickard
Jean Buckner
Leo Bowman
Dave Barnes

Absent

Nate Moxley

Public present at the meeting

Alan Rathbun, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Tim Sweeney, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Marina Woodard, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Hide Aso, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Steve King, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Sondra Walsh, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Ilyne Lawson, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Rebecca Post, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)
Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association (NWGA)
Keith Meissner, Cascade Natural Gas Corp.
Marissa Rosati, Pipeline Safety Trust
Daryl Pyne, Chevron Pipe Line Company

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Adoption of January 12, 2006 Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update.
4. Update on 2006 Legislative Session - Bills impacting Pipeline Safety.
5. Public Awareness - Next Steps - Review of WUTC, Pipeline Safety Trust and OPS Websites.
6. Distribution Integrity Management (DIMP) and Excess Flow Valves.
7. Committee Procedure - Visitor Presentations and Public Records.

8. Other Business and Next Meeting Agenda Topics

1. **Welcome and Adoption of January 12, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order. The Chair welcomed all members and introduced Dave Barnes as a new member of the committee. Dave Barnes is an Assurance & Integrity Manager of Olympic Pipe Line Company replacing Jim Clark on the committee as an industry non-voting member. His term will last until July 31, 2007.

The first discussion item was the minutes from the January 12, 2006 meeting. Committee member Dave Barnes requested minor corrections to the Enbridge Purchase of Olympic Pipeline. The committee members moved to adopt the minutes as amended.

2. **Public Comment**

- Rebecca Post of Department of Ecology (DOE) notified committee members that a quarterly meeting between WUTC and DOE will be held on March 2, 2006. Committee members should inform Rebecca Post or Tim Sweeney of any issues to be addressed prior to the meeting.
- Katie Hansen suggested switching the discussion order of two agenda items: Update on 2006 Legislative Session and Public Awareness.

3. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Update**

Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, provided an update from the pipeline safety section.

Williams NW Capacity Replacement Project

Construction continues on three horizontal directional drills as part of the Williams Capacity Replacement Project.

- South Fork Stillaquamish – Drilling complete and the pipe has been pulled under the river.
- North Fork Stillaquamish – Completed the 42-inch ream pass and working on the 50-inch pass. Hydrostatic testing of the pipe is to be scheduled.
- North Fork Nooksack – Drilling is continuing. Pipe has been strung and welded. Hydrostatic testing of the pipe is scheduled for the pipe prior to pull under the river late this week.

Construction on the four new 36-inch pipe segments will begin this spring. Total construction length is approximately 79 miles. A pre-construction briefing between WUTC and OPS staff is being scheduled for sometime in March.

Based on the Corrective Action Order issued by OPS, William's goal is to have all the pipes connected and operational before December 13, 2006. Grant Jensen informed committee members that the line will be ready for service by October 1st; however, it may not mean that the pipe will contain natural gas.

Leo Bowman suggested committee members take a field trip to the Williams' facility. If members are interested, plans and arrangements will be made in the future to schedule the trip.

Northern Star LNG – Bradwood Landing, Oregon

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) processing of the application for the proposed Bradwood Landing LNG import facility continues. The project before FERC includes both the terminal facility in Oregon and the interstate pipeline to bring natural gas to Williams Northwest pipeline in Cowlitz County north of Kelso/Longview. A copy of the preliminary route for the pipeline through Oregon and Washington was distributed for the committee's information. The environmental and permitting process will continue through 2006 and early 2007. Preliminary schedules estimate FERC authorization to begin construction in August 2007.

Alan made a minor correction to the copy of the distributed proposed route Cascade Natural Gas is the operator for K.B. Pipeline, not Northwest Natural.

Small Gas System Study

As discussed in previous meetings, WUTC pipeline staff is progressing with study of small gas systems. The study is designed to identify safety risks posed by small natural gas and propane distribution systems that are not operated by regulated companies. Further, the study will recommend whether the current regulatory structure is appropriate to mitigate identified risks. A notice of inquiry was distributed last year and a disappointing number of responses were received. Staff is now searching for a consultant to assist in the project. A request for qualifications has been issued with responses due February 21st.

New Management Analyst

Ilyne Lawson has accepted a newly created pipeline safety position as Management Analyst. Part of Ilyne's responsibilities will be providing staff support to the Citizens Committee. Marina remains on staff and will now devote more time to other program activities.

4. Public Awareness - Next Steps - Review of WUTC, Pipeline Safety Trust and OPS Websites.

The committee reviewed three different websites containing pipeline safety information. The WUTC's website (www.wutc.wa.gov) is still undergoing content modifications. Committee members requested website modifications such as adding a link for citizens to e-mail committee members; the removal of Citizens Committee members' personal

contact information; and posting a committee mailing address to the website. Committee members also suggested adding a section covering relevant proposed legislation currently under examination to the WUTC website.

Pipeline Safety Trust (www.pstrust.org) provides information pertaining to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The website runs nationwide discussion lists concerning pipelines and LNG. In addition to providing users with newsletters, an extensive library, and worldwide reports, the website offers LNG information. The Pipeline Safety Trust is working towards building websites for each state. Annual reports obtained from OPS are also available on the website, but the data is too complex for most users and does not contain the information that committee members can easily understand.

The Office of Pipeline Safety (<http://ops.dot.gov/>) provides information at a national level. Committee members find the majority of the information on the website to be confusing and would like to see data that is easy to understand. Although the website was used to communicate and report information between regulators and Congress, the committee could request to have the report format modified.

After examining the reports on the websites, the committee discussed the information contained in the OPS reports. The committee suggested making the inspection reports easier to understand. Committee members discussed report details, accuracy, and integrity and ideas to improve the report format. The Chair asked the committee to continue the discussion through e-mail that would help initiate an improvement process for the inspection reports.

5. **Update on 2006 Legislative Session - Bills impacting Pipeline Safety**

The committee continued its discussion on HB 2350, which proposes to amend the public records act (RCW 42.17.310) as it relates to location data for hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines. The committee reviewed a substitute version of HB 2350, provided by Staff, but did not agree to adopt the language. Committee members feel that they are unable to reach a consensus on HB 2350. A motion was made by Leo, seconded by Jean to vote for no pass and a one year delay on HB 2350. After the committee members discussed the value of delaying the vote on HB 2350, they voted. The committee was split evenly and the motion failed. Dan Kirschner assured that the committee that its split decision would be represented to Staff and legislators in consideration of HB 2350.

Staff advised the committee of legislation that may potentially impact pipeline safety. One House bill would place a 10-year moratorium on siting of LNG facilities in the state. Another bill, HB 6266, will have a procedural impact on any state rule making impacting the city and county governments. In addition, the Senate passed a rail safety bill allowing state programs access to hazardous material sites owned and operated by the rail lines.

6. **Distribution Integrity Management (DIMP) and Excess Flow Valves (EFVs).**

Richard Kuprewicz presented a Phase 1 Investigation on DIMP. Rick provided committee members with DIMP background emphasizing key points such as 3rd party damage enforcement, managing gas leaks, and the use of EFVs. The results of the investigation concluded that DIMP incited improvements, but any future enhancements are in PHMSA's hands. The expected time frame for regulation is between 2008 and 2009.

Duane Henderson presented EFVs from an operator's perspective. While explaining the purpose and background of EFVs, Duane passed out samples of service lines to committee members. The presentation covered the status, limitations, benefits, and risks of EFVs. Duane made recommendations and conclusions about the use of EFVs from an operator's perspective.

7. **Committee Procedure - Visitor Presentations and Public Records.**

After Williams presented Lewis County landslide information to the Committee in a previous meeting, Alan obtained legal advice from an assistant attorney general (AG) regarding its public record status. The AG determined that a Power Point presentation that was never printed and provided to the committee would not be considered public record; however, the committee could implement its own policy to clarify the indefinite portion of public disclosure. The committee discussed types of softcopy, disk and paper information that would constitute public record. Shirley made a motion, seconded by Carl, that any information presented during a meeting should become public record and the motion passed. Another motion was made by Shirley to require all electronic presentations to be provided to committee members in hard copy, but the motion was withdrawn. Pete made a motion, seconded by Jean that a copy of electronic or written materials must be provided to the WUTC and the motion passed.

8. **Other Business and Next Meeting Agenda Topics**

The committee discussed touring the Williams Capacity Replacement project during the Bellevue meeting. A meeting place would have to be determined and Personal Protective Equipment training would have to be provided. The committee would have to decide whether to lengthen the meeting or extend the meeting to a day and a half. Additional tours at an Olympic location and at a pig launching spot during an inline inspection were discussed. Since not all committee members were present, the committee decided to wait before planning any of the proposed tours. Tentative meeting dates and locations include July 19, 2006 in Bellevue and September 14, 2006 in Spokane (deployment drill, expected to last for 2 days).

Agenda items for discussion at the next meeting.

The continuation of agenda items discussion will occur on March 16 and the technical discussion on Thermal Impact Zones is expected to take place on May 11.

The next Citizens Committee meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2006 in Olympia. The meeting location will be communicated via e-mail and posted to the WUTC website.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.